



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

COW2017001373

September 23, 2019

Taylor Amarel
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 45474, 411A Highland Ave.
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Taylor Amarel:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request received in this office November 12, 2017. You specifically requested:

- Documents, emails, attachment, or memos from January 1, 2013 to Present day
- Sent, received, or copied to dhsexecsec@hq.dhs.gov or USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov
- Containing any of the following non-case-sensitive strings: "Iconic Caribbean" OR "Puerto Rico"

We have completed the review of all documents and have identified 505 pages that are responsive to your request. We also identified three (3) Excel Spreadsheets responsive to your request. Enclosed are 185 pages released in their entirety and 317 pages released in part. We have reviewed and have determined to release all information except those portions that are exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4), (b)(5) and (b)(6) of the FOIA.

During our review, USCIS located 3 pages of potentially responsive documents that may have originated from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). USCIS has sent the document(s) and a copy of your FOIA request to the ICE FOIA Office for consideration and direct response to you. Should you wish to contact ICE concerning the status of the processing of the document(s), please contact the ICE FOIA Office via phone at (866) 633-1182 or via e-mail at ICE-FOIA@dhs.gov. The ICE FOIA Office mailing address is 500 12th Street, S.W., MS 5009, Washington, D.C. 20536-5009.

Exemption (b)(4) protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld may consist of unit pricing, business sales statistics; research data; technical designs; customer and supplier lists; profit and loss data; overhead and operating costs; and information on financial condition.

Exemption (b)(5) provides protection for inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters, which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld under this exemption may consist of documents containing pre-decisional information, documents or other memoranda prepared in contemplation of litigation, or confidential communications between attorney and client.

Exemption (b)(6) permits the government to withhold all information about individuals in personnel, medical and similar files where the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld may consist of birth certificates, naturalization certificates, drivers' licenses, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, or various other documents and/or information belonging to a third party that are considered personal.

In accordance with Department of Homeland Security Regulations (6 C.F.R. § 5.4(a)), USCIS uses a “cut-off” date to delineate the scope of a FOIA request by treating records created after that date as not responsive to that request. Therefore, in determining which records are responsive to your request, we included only records in the possession of this agency as of November 12, 2017, the date we began the search for records.

The enclosed record consists of the best reproducible copies available. Certain pages contain marks that appear to be blacked-out information. The black marks were made prior to our receipt of the file and are not information we have withheld under the provisions of the FOIA or PA.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal within 90 days of the date of this letter. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency’s decision. You may file an administrative FOIA appeal to USCIS at: USCIS FOIA/PA Appeals Office, 150 Space Center Loop, Suite 500, Lee's Summit, MO 64064-2139. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.”

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Jill Eggleston, for assistance at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

National Records Center, FOIA/PA Office

P. O. Box 648010

Lee’s Summit, MO 64064-8010

Telephone: 1-800-375-5283

Email: FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman’s office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal Agencies. The OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information /Services

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS

College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 202-741-5770

877-684-6448

Email: OGIS@NARA.GOV

Website: OGIS.ARCHIVES.GOV

The National Records Center does not process petitions, applications or any other type of benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act. If you have questions or wish to submit documentation relating to a matter pending with the bureau, you must address these issues with your nearest District Office.

All FOIA/PA related requests, including address changes, must be submitted in writing and be signed by the requester. Please include the Control Number listed above on all correspondence with this office. Requests may be mailed to the FOIA/PA Officer at the PO Box listed at the top of the letterhead, emailed to USCIS.FOIA@uscis.dhs.gov, or sent by fax to (816) 350-5785. You may also submit FOIA/PA related questions to our email address at FOIAPAQuestions@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill A. Eggleston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" and last name "Eggleston" clearly distinguishable.

Jill A. Eggleston
Director, FOIA Operations